



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)
E-mail: ppn@longfordcoco.ie; Web: www.longfordppn.ie
fb: @longfordppn
Twitter: @LongfordPPN

Edel Kelly, PPN Support Worker, County Longford Public Participation Network, Longford County Council, Great Water Street, Longford

PPN Newsletter December 2023 (Part 1)

LOCAL NEWS



*The United Nation's international campaign **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).*

This year's theme is: **UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls.**

How much does the world care about ending violence against women and girls? We don't know. **What we do know, is the human cost of violence against women and girls is immeasurable** with 1 in 3 women experiencing physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. But everyone pays in some way when this violence occurs.

Violence and Abuse against women and girls destroys stability within families and communities. Domestic Abuse triggers huge costs **to societies in healthcare, education, social protection, justice, and productivity, preventing economies from achieving their full potential.**

The solution lies in strong responses, including investment in prevention. Supporting and investing in women's rights organizations is essential to ending violence against women and girls. Longford Women's Link is your county's, nationally recognised women's rights organization who are leading the way and providing training services for professional bodies dealing with domestic abuse.

YOUR INVESTMENT

The investment **Longford Women's Link is asking you** to make is one of **your public space** during 2023's 16 days of Activism. We have commissioned 16 posters from evidence based researched information which aim to educate, inform and break stereotypes in relation to many views of Domestic Abuse.

PLEASE JOIN US

Please join us and be one of our 16 locations taking part in these 16 days of global activism. Contact Loretto on 0433341511 at Longford Women's Link for more details and to order your poster pack.

LONGFORD WOMENS LINK

Longford Women's Link Domestic Violence Service provides supports to women and children experiencing domestic violence in Co. Longford. We are a team of trained specialists in the areas of domestic violence and coercive control.

Longford Women's Link Domestic Violence Service engages in social change actions at local, regional, and national level to highlight the needs of women and children experiencing domestic violence and coercive control. We advocate for improved responses in policy and legislative measures and service delivery. For a full list of supports provided please see www.lwl.ie

ECCO Christmas event



The next Upcycling
FREE ECCO event



Have yourself a sustainable Christmas!!

*Thinking for sustainability/demo wreaths
Making Christmas decorations
Cutting food waste around Christmas - demo and tips
Top Chef's tips regarding Christmas cooking/storage etc*

Date: Monday 11th December 2023
Time: 11.00 - 1.00
Venue: EDI Centre
Refreshments provided

To confirm attendance contact 043-3347515



Involving Volunteers

As we are nearing the end of 2023 and beginning to look towards 2024, I just wanted to remind you of the value of involving volunteers within your projects and organisations, and encourage you to register any new volunteer roles with us here in Longford Volunteer Centre.

Volunteers can be a valuable resource for organisations, potentially allowing you to increase capacity and reach greater numbers, extend hours of operation, or diversify the types of services you offer. Involving people from the locality as volunteers is a great way of building a connection with the community. Volunteers can bring enthusiasm, skills and local knowledge to your organisation.

We understand that there are lots of things to consider when thinking about involving volunteers. We are happy to offer support and advice should you have any queries about engaging volunteers.

If you have volunteer roles to fill we can help find suitable people to fill those roles, process Garda Vetting, advertise the roles on I-Vol (the national volunteering database) and also showcase them on our social media.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any queries, we are here to help.

Bronwyn Slevin
Longford Volunteer Centre Outreach & Development Officer
Longford Community Resources Clg
Templemichael
Longford
N39 RH22
Phone: 043-3345555
Mobile: 087 9981815
E-Mail: bslevin@volunteerlongford.ie
Website: www.lcrl.ie www.volunteerlongford.ie

HSE Schedule of upcoming suicide prevention, self-harm, and bereavement support training programmes.

Please see below an outline of scheduled training programmes for the next 6 months.

Requests can also be taken for settings-based delivery of the safeTALK and Introduction to Self-Harm programme if such is desired.

Registration to attend any of the workshops is via the booking website:
<https://bookwhen.com/suicidepreventiontrainingmidlands>

Introduction to Self-harm (2 hour online facilitated programme): 13th November: 5- 7pm

5th February: 5-7pm

Understanding Self Harm (1 day prog).

7th December – Athlone

22nd February - Tullamore

safeTALK (suicide alertness programme) 6th December: 6-9pm – Laois Education Centre

12th December: 9.30am – 1pm – Tullamore

ASIST workshops

22nd and 23rd January – Tullamore (9-5pm)

7th and 8th February – Athlone (9-5pm)

Workshop for those supporting people bereaved through suicide:

30th November – Longford (9am – 4.30pm)

14th March – Tullamore (9am – 4.30pm).



HSE ROSP Training
Schedule 2023 - 20

Please check out the pdf here for further information and registration

GOAL Mile Information

The GOAL Mile is a wonderful event, suitable for all ages and abilities! We are hoping to increase the number of people organising and participating in a Mile this year. While most GOAL Miles take place on Christmas Day, a Mile can be organised any time in December.

This year has been particularly challenging with climate disasters and conflict leaving over 100 million people displaced. All funds raised through the GOAL Mile will be used to support GOAL's work around the world (from East Africa to Palestine).

I have included the following and would greatly appreciate it if you could share this out on your social and email communications:

- Information on the GOAL Mile
- Images for social media in two formats

We would really appreciate it if you could use the hash tags #GOALMile and #ThatsWhatGOALiesDo

A full list of existing GOAL Miles can be found [here](#). We would really appreciate your support to highlight the Miles in your local area.

Annmarie Sweeney, GOAL Global, Carnegie House, Library Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin, Ireland

Mobile: +353 85 8064486

Email: asweeney@goal.ie

Web: www.goalglobal.org



GM2023 Organisers
Pack-compressed (1)



EDGEWORTH'S ARTISAN & CRAFT INDOOR MARKET

**SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER &
SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER
11.00 AM TO 4.00 PM**

FREE ADMISSION

**St Mary's Community Centre,
Granard Road, Aghafin,
Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford**



instagram



facebook

Please contact for entering a stall:



GAELS UNITED FC
PRESENTS
DRUMLISH STREET
CHRISTMAS
MARKET

DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH
2PM TO 6PM

PLEASE CONTACT 0851249528 BY
TEXT IF YOU WISH TO ENTER A
STALL



**GAELS UNITED FC
PRESENTS**

**DRUMLISH STREET
CHRISTMAS MARKETS**

&

SANTA GROTTO

9th & 10th Dec 2023

2Pm-6pm

**A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE FOR
ALL THE FAMILY**



**Check us out on
facebook @Santa
Visiting Drumlish**



Longford Tourism | Part of AN LONG FORT HERITAGE

Ardagh, Co Longford.
Photo by Colm Mulligan

December Events Guide

Jolly Boys Xmas Market, 2nd & 3rd December and 8th & 9th December at Jolly Boys Pizza & Grill, Ballymahon – craft fair, food stalls, music, fun for all the family.

Sunday December 3rd - **Annual Santa Dash** 12 noon Lisryan, 3km Santa Dash followed by a visit to see the man himself. Lisryan Christmas Market Stalls will be in place also.

'A Christmas Carol' – the much-loved Dickens classic comes to Backstage Theatre Monday 4th December at 10am & 12pm. Tickets €8, see www.backstage.ie for more info.

'The Adventures of Billy and Sleeping Beauty' panto is on at St Mel's College from 19th December onwards.

The annual **Christmas Lights Tractor Run** is on 10th December departing from Abbeyshrule, more info see Abbeyshrule Xmas lights tractor run Facebook page.

Longford Flower Club Annual Christmas Gala at Backstage Theatre, Tuesday, 12th December at 8pm-10pm. Their demonstrators will be Patricia McCalog and Margaret McGrory, both AOIFA demonstrators from Donegal. Proceeds in aid of local charities.

Ballinamuck Santa Experience – Santa will be making his annual visit to Johnny's Cottage, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December. See Ballinamuck Foroige Juniors Facebook page for more info.

Lus na Greine eat well – check our facebook page for details

Edgeworth's Artisan & Craft Indoor Market – Saturday 16th December. 11am – 4pm. St Mary's Community Centre, Edgeworthstown.

Abbeyshrule Christmas Craft Fair - family-friendly annual fair with Santa, raffle and Christmas Lights Tractor Run at The Rustic Inn, **Sunday 10th December 12-6pm.**

COURSES

FREE TRAINING OFFER FROM MEN'S AID

Date: Thursday, 14 December

Time: 10am – 1pm

Venue: FLAC, 85/86 Dorset Street Upper, Dublin 1, Ireland, D01 P9Y3

Domestic Violence: A comprehensive response for all men.

Contact Derek Byrne at education@mensaid.ie 083 204 8443 to book your place

FREE DIGITAL LITERACY COURSES

My name is Dereck Carolan, and I am a technology Trainer for NCBI. I am reaching out to discuss how I can help and support your communities, specifically people with low sight or no sight and their families.

Here is a link to our website - <https://www.ncbi.ie/supporting-you/technology/ncbi-labs/>

Services Offered

As part of my role, I can provide the following services:

- Group training courses, projects, and talks that will enable the low-vision and no-vision community to access their local area.
- Technology assessments and demonstrations.
- Technology clubs and webinars.

We are promoting the following course

Are you ready to embark on a journey towards digital empowerment? NCBI Labs is thrilled to announce our FREE Digital Literacy Courses, designed to equip people with essential digital skills! Course topics include computers and the internet, using a smartphone, connecting with others, entertainment and shopping, hobbies and travel, and online banking.

Next Steps

I would love the opportunity to discuss further how we can work together moving forward. Please feel free to contact me at dereck.carolan@ncbi.ie or 0866086771.



Dereck Carolan
Technology Trainer

NCBI Labs: 1800 911 110

Email: Dereck.Carolan@ncbi.ie | www.ncbi.ie



ACHIEVING & MAINTAINING COMPLIANCE WITH DATA PROTECTION & GDPR (ONLINE WORKSHOP) 7TH DECEMBER

While this workshop is intended as an introduction for people who are engaging with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for the first time, it will also be a useful refresher for people who have some knowledge and experience of the subject.

The workshop will take you through the fundamental principles, definitions and actions required by the GDPR, there will also be a valuable opportunity to ask questions.

In particular, this workshop will provide attendees with:

- An overview of GDPR

- An understanding of the principles, terms, and the key roles such as Data Controller, Data Processor and Data Protection Officer and their obligations under the Regulation
- A walk-through of the Seven Data Management Principles
- An outline the rights of data subjects - i.e., the people whose data we hold
- The key steps that organisations need to take to become GDPR compliant.

How to register

This event will be held on **Zoom**. Please check [HERE](#) for further information and registration.

National News

Sustainable Funding Must Follow 8% Wage Agreement, Say Public Service Voluntary Bodies

The Coalition* of community and voluntary organisations delivering essential health and public services on behalf of the state has welcomed acceptance of an 8% pay increase for staff, negotiated in talks between trade unions and the government in October. It says it is a first step in government recognition of a two-tier model of funding for essential public services.

*The Coalition of community and voluntary organisations delivering essential health and public services on behalf of the state includes:

- Coalition of Túsla Funded Organisations
- Disability Federation of Ireland
- Dublin Homeless Network
- Family Resource Centres National Forum
- Mental Health Reform
- National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers
- National Voluntary Drug and Alcohol Sector
- Simon Communities of Ireland
- The Wheel.

[Find out more](#)

Support Social This Christmas

Are you looking to give meaningful gifts this Christmas? You can make a difference with the Rethink Ireland gift guide featuring products from social enterprises.

Social enterprises offer unique gifts, experiences, and services with much more than monetary value. Choosing to support a social enterprise creates a ripple effect, transforming the lives of individuals and communities across Ireland.

[Find out more](#)

Minister Humphreys officially opens Ireland's first ever Irish Sign Language Café in Dublin

- *New facility in Cabra's Deaf Village receives €100,000 under the Community Centre Investment Fund (CCIF)*
- *Project to provide opportunities for employment, remote working, and integration*

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has today (Wednesday 29th November) officially opened Ireland's first ever Irish Sign Language Café, which is located in the Deaf Village Ireland premises in Cabra, Co. Dublin.

This new facility will provide members of the Deaf Community with a modern new space in which to meet and socialise. It will also generate opportunities for employment and remote working.

The project received €100,000 under the Community Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) and was officially opened by Minister Humphreys during a visit to Deaf Village today.

Speaking during the visit, Minister Humphreys said:

"I am delighted to be here today in Cabra to officially open this new and exciting facility, which received €100,000 in funding under my Department's Community Centre Investment Fund.

"When I established this new fund last year, I did so with communities just like this one here in Deaf Village in mind.

"This is a very unique, welcoming and inclusive place – a place where members of the Deaf Community can come together and meet up with friends.

"And it's a place too where they can access a range of supports and take part in various different activities and events in areas ranging from sport and education to arts and heritage.

"But I know too that this Village opens its doors to everyone – and it is a really popular place too for hearing people, our young people and members of the wider Cabra area."

Minister Humphreys continued:

"Community Centres are an integral part of community life in cities, towns, villages around the country; and none more so than this unique opening here in Cabra today.

"I understand that the aim of this project was to renovate, refresh, and rebrand the café to expose and promote deaf culture and language to the wider Cabra community.

"It's a project that will support jobs, remote working and, most importantly, help promote integration and inclusivity.

"I want to commend the work of everyone involved in bringing this project to fruition."

ENDS

The Department of Rural and Community Development Press Office

01-773 6843 / 087-1734633

Press.office@drcd.gov.ie

Community Centre Investment Fund

Funding under the 2022 Community Centre Investment Fund was available under 3

Categories, with grants of between €10,000 and €300,000 available:

- Category 1: Small scale projects/improvements to facilities €10,000 - €25,000
- Category 2: Larger scale projects €25,001 to €100,000
- Category 3: Major projects €100,001 to €300,000

Funding was available for capital works such as: -

- works to improve communal facilities such as kitchen and toilet facilities
- energy retrofitting, new windows / doors / heating systems
- upgrades to lighting systems and stage areas
- works to address safety concerns, including as a result of fire safety audits
- works to improve disability access
- improvements to assist in providing additional or better services to the community such as meals for the elderly and youth facilities
- works to develop Community Centres as Social Hubs through the development of Community Cinemas, Youth Hubs, and Community Libraries
- essential maintenance works, repairs to roof, and so on

The fund closed to applications on the 14th of July 2022.

Over 860 projects were approved for funding with a combined value of over €45.8 million.

Minister Joe O'Brien publishes the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2024

€47.6 million in funding to help address disadvantage

Minister of State for Community Development, Integration and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, today (23rd November 2023) announced funding of €47.6 million from the Dormant Accounts Fund to address disadvantage right across the country.

The Minister made the announcement while launching the 2024 Dormant Accounts Action Plan at the "BoxUp" project in Rush, Co Dublin.

BoxUp, supported by Sport Ireland through the Dormant Accounts Fund, is a free equipment sharing solution that aims to tackle inequality in sport by providing free access to sporting equipment.

The Dormant Accounts Fund can be used to fund measures that address economic, social, or educational disadvantage and to support people with a disability. The 2024 Action Plan allocates funding of €47.6 million to 52 measures to be delivered across 11 Government Departments.

Launching the Action Plan today, Minister O'Brien said:

“I am delighted to launch the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2024 which provides funding of €47.6 million to help address disadvantage right across Ireland. The 52 measures approved for funding in 2024 will be implemented across Government and will help to address a diverse range of issues such as long-term unemployment, Traveller equality, youth disadvantage, migrant integration and probation supports to prevent re-offending.”

The Minister continued:

“Dormant Accounts funding makes a real difference to individuals and communities right across the country. The 2024 Action Plan being published today will help ensure that we can continue to support those who need it most during these challenging times. I am particularly pleased to see continued support for traveller initiatives and services across 5 departments”.

Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. noted:

“I welcome the 2024 Dormant Accounts Action Plan which will see €47.6 million in funding targeted at addressing disadvantage.

“Within my Department, it will allow continued funding of €5.5 million for Rethink Ireland and €2.7 million for the Senior Alerts Scheme. It will also see support for Social Enterprise €2 million and just over €1 million for Targeted Social Inclusion Measures. These interventions, and similar measures across Government, make a real difference for thousands of individuals right across the country.”

The Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan 2024 is available to view [here](#).

ENDS

The Department of Rural and Community Development Press Office

01-773 6843 / 087-1734633

Press.office@drd.gov.ie

Notes to editors:

BoxUp

BoxUp is supported by Sport Ireland, through the Dormant Accounts Fund, it is available in parks and communities across Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, and Waterford.

Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2024

In total, 52 different measures, to the value of €47.6 million will be supported under the 2024 Action Plan. A full list of measures to be funded under the 2024 Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan is set out in the table below.

Many measures have been funded in previous Action Plans and have now been approved for continued funding in 2024 to enable the measures to operate again next year. The majority of approved measures will progress in 2024, with each Government Department responsible for delivery of their own measures. Minister of State Joe O'Brien TD asked Ministers to continue to propose actions that would be of benefit to the Traveller community. Measures can progress over a number of years with funding drawn down from the Fund as spending is incurred.

Some examples of measures approved for funding include:

- €10.5 million for investment and actions aimed at improving participation in sports in disadvantage communities and for persons with disabilities.
- €3.9 million for traveller initiatives and services across 5 departments.
- €4 million for youth and community justice services aimed at countering the influence and impacts of crime on young people and in communities.
- €2 million to support social enterprises to address social and economic disadvantage
- €2.7 million for a youth and family initiatives to provide young people with the soft skills needed to improve employability.

This Action Plan builds on previous plans and ensures continued support for individuals and organisations right across the country. Funding under the 2024 Action Plan has decreased by 12.5% from 2023. Further reductions are required in the coming years to sustain the fund.

Background to the Dormant Accounts Fund

The Dormant Accounts Acts 2001-2012, together with the Unclaimed Life Assurance Policies Act 2003, provide a framework for the administration of unclaimed accounts in credit institutions (i.e., banks, building societies and An Post) and unclaimed life assurance policies in insurance undertakings.

The main purpose of the legislation is to reunite account or policy holders with their funds in credit institutions or insurance undertakings and in this regard, these bodies are required to take

steps to identify and contact the owners of dormant accounts and unclaimed life assurance policies.

However, in order to utilise the unused funds, the legislation also introduced a scheme for the disbursement of funds that are unlikely to be reclaimed from dormant accounts and unclaimed policies for the purposes of measures to assist:

1. the personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged.
2. the educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged or
3. persons with a disability.

Summary Table of Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan

The following table provides a summary of measures and allocated funding under the Action Plan 2024 to each relevant Government Department. Full details are within the Action Plan itself.

Lead Department/Agency	No.	Description	Max Allocation
Department of Rural & Community Development	1	Social Enterprise Measure	2,000,000
	2	Senior Alerts Scheme	2,700,000
	3	Targeted Social Inclusion	1,028,670
	4	Libraries Promotion Disadvantaged Groups	150,000
	5	Rethink Ireland	5,500,000
Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government	6	Housing First	3,000,000
	7	Traveller Accommodation	620,000
Department of Justice	8	Drogheda Implementation Plan Year 3	207,987
	9	Youth and Community Justice Services	4,159,734
	10	Awareness campaigns on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Victims' Rights	1,132,963
	11	Community Organisations – Criminal Justice Sector	166,389

	12	Community Organisations – YPP Project Expenditure	62,396
	13	Measures to support paths to employment for people with past criminal convictions	915,141
	14	Cherry Orchard Implementation Board (COIB) Year 2	166,389
	15	Consent programme for the Further Education & Training sector	189,000
	16	Community Based Health in Justice	385,909
	17	Tovertafel projecting interactive light games by helping people in prison with dementia and autism	38,745
Department of Social Protection	18	Family Carer Measure - Supporting Family Carers including Young Carers, & Former Carers to access employment and/or training and education supports	2,500,000
	19	Care Support for Vulnerable in Society	1,149,810
	20	Oberstown Detention Campus Training Initiatives	417,500
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	21	Traveller and/or Roma Community Initiatives	2,190,224
	22	Youth and/or Family Initiatives	2,716,218
	23	Babies and/or Young Children	90,000
	24	Disability Awareness Initiative	171,120
	25	SEN learners transitions Pilot	500,000
	26	Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)	300,000

Department of Education	27	Young Social Innovators	180,000
	28	Time To Count numeracy support for children	20,000
	29	Glasnevin Trust Transportations	20,000
	30	The Big Idea TY Programme	200,000
	31	Munster Technical University GoalMine TY Programme	70,000
	32	CDETb Migrant Integration	120,000
	33	Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Co-ordinators	790,000
	34	School Completion Programme for children seeking international protection	200,000
	35	Project to address economic and educational disadvantage being experienced by a cohort of 2 nd level students in 4 Non - DEIS Schools in *North East region	146,760
	36	Update, Reproduce and launch School Avoidance Packs for all schools	14,000
	37	Provision of interim transport support for children experiencing homelessness	20,000
	38	Enhancing educational outcomes for children and Young People from the Traveller and Roma communities	180,000
	39	Strengthening School Transitions and Attendance for Children and Young People	107,000
	40	School enrichment project supporting children in school transition	50,000
	41	Bespoke webinars for LGBTI+	20,000
	42	Upgrading of the Civil Defence Fleet of Vehicles	400,000

Department of Defence	43	Dormant Accounts funding to Veterans Associations	200,000
	44	Sail Training Ireland	50,000
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	45	Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs	1,842,500
	46	National Sport Education and Training Hub	1,877,500
	47	Sports Measures for Disadvantaged Communities to Support the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP)	6,780,000
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research and Innovation and Science	48	Apprenticeship Incentivisation Programme for Care Leavers and Travelling community	550,000
	49	Student Accommodation Bursary for Children in Care, Traveller, and Roma Communities	600,000
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	50	Balance for Better Business	201,250
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	51	Go fishing	250,000
	52	Targeted anglers with a disability or restricted mobility measure	250,000
TOTAL:			€47,597,205

New Podcast with Mental Health Ireland CEO, Stress Control Online & Upcoming Webinars

HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing Podcast, Episode 31 – Mental Health Ireland

In this episode of the HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing podcast, host Fergal Fox talks to Martin Rogan, the CEO of Mental Health Ireland. They discuss the organisation's work in promoting mental health and wellbeing, the importance of collaboration and

understanding in mental health promotion, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health. Martin emphasises the need for a holistic approach to mental health and highlights the fundamental role of parenting. He tells us about the coproduction model utilised by Mental Health Ireland and the priority of engaging with people with lived experience of mental health, to inform all their developments.

He also shares his insights into successful mental health promotion research and models implemented in other countries. Martin is also working with the Department of Health on their Mental Health Promotion Plan and shares his insights into that work. It all makes for an uplifting and engaging conversation about mental wellbeing. For information on Mental Health Ireland go to their website: www.mentalhealthireland.ie and for a full range of information and advice about your mental health and wellbeing, including mental health issues, coping with difficult situations and helping someone else go to www.yourmentalhealth.ie on the HSE website.

Listen and follow wherever you get your [Podcasts](#) or on the [HSE Health and Wellbeing YouTube channel](#).

Commencement of Domestic Violence Leave

Following the introduction of domestic violence leave in the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, Women's Aid are pleased to announce that the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) have confirmed the commencement date for this new employee entitlement: **Monday, 27 November 2023**.

Statutory domestic violence leave is most effectively implemented when introduced as part of a wider organisational response to domestic violence and abuse, best captured in a workplace domestic abuse policy. Women's Aid were contracted by DCEDIY to produce support materials and services for employers developing such policies, which are now available at www.DVatWork.ie. This [1-page PDF](#) also provides an overview of these resources.

Women's Aid recognises that training is a key element in the development of a workplace response to domestic violence and abuse. To ensure that training is a feasible option for all organisations, on 28 November we are holding a training session on Recognising and Responding to Domestic Abuse in the Workplace which is open to anyone to join. Places on this training are reserved for staff of organisations with 150 employees or fewer. For further information or to register, please visit this page: [Recognising and Responding to Domestic Abuse in the Workplace](#).

Women's Aid also offer training solutions for larger organisations; [visit Support for Employers](#) for more information.

www.womensaid.ie

#DVatWork

Chronic Pain Ireland CLG

We are a national organisation providing information & support services to people living with chronic pain. We work with all stakeholders, people with chronic pain, families, carers, health professionals, students, researchers etc. We engage with academic institutions focusing on patient centric research for people living with chronic pain. Projects we are involved in: investigating various themes within chronic pain i.e. exercise; sleep; music therapy; injustice & stigma. Raising awareness, advocacy, education self-management.

For further information please click [HERE](#)



Rights of Nature in Westmeath and Galway Public Participation Network

Rights of Nature is a way of re-thinking our relationship with nature – from one of dominance to one of sharing, caring, respect and interdependency.

In 2021 Donegal became the first Local Authority in the Republic of Ireland to adopt a motion embracing an all-island environmental doctrine known as Rights of Nature. This year, environmental representatives in Public Participation Networks (PPNs) are working to get similar motions through their County Councils. You can [read the final motion here](#).

If you're involved in your PPN, Reps from Galway PPN have put together a Guidance Document for your own Rights of Nature Campaign [which you can view here](#). Westmeath PPN Reps have put together a proposal for their Plenary meeting asking that the PPN write a letter to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action supporting the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity and calling for the Committee to recommend their adoption in full, which includes Rights of Nature. [You can view this proposal here](#).

[Not involved in your PPN?](#)

You can help support the Citizens Call for Rights of Nature by [adding your organisation](#) to the list of supporters here.

You can also [learn more about Rights of Nature here](#). If you'd like to be involved in the conversation you can join the Whatsapp group by emailing [<lynda@ejni.net>](mailto:lynda@ejni.net).

There is lots of positive action from within PPNs by their member groups. PPN Representatives are elected directly from local community groups and provide a voice for the community on council committees. [Click here to find your PPN and join today](#). It's free to do so, and also provides you with information on activities within the county, information on funding, and the opportunity to meet other groups in your county.

Budget 2024 on Housing: Regressive Subsidies and Lack of Ambition

For the past number of years, Government's response to the housing crisis has been categorised by an over-reliance on the private rented sector and the introduction of badly targeted subsidies which disproportionately benefit those on higher incomes and artificially inflate house and rent prices. Budget 2024 has been no exception. [Read More](#).

GRANTS FOR A HOME ENERGY UPGRADE

The National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme provides grants to upgrade the energy efficiency of your property. When the work is completed, your property should have an energy efficiency rating of B2 or above. The scheme is available to homeowners, private landlords and [approved housing bodies](#).

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) administers the grants, and a private company manages the work for you. These companies are called [One Stop Shops](#), and the scheme is also known as the [One Stop Shop Service](#).

The SEAI also provides [individual energy upgrade grants](#), if you only want to do certain home energy upgrades, and would prefer to manage the process yourself. There is also a [free home energy upgrade scheme](#) for people on low incomes.

For more information click [Here](#)



Clann Credo – Community Loan Finance

Financing Community Ambition!

Calling all community groups, approved housing bodies, family resource centres, sports clubs, charities, and social enterprises - If you are planning a project or service that delivers a social benefit in your local community, Clann Credo may be able to help!

The social finance offered by Clann Credo is designed for community groups and comprises term loans and bridging loans. You may need a bridging loan to enable you to avail of grant aid offered by a public body and/or you may require a term loan to deliver your project or service where grant aid is not available or does not meet the full cost of the project.

Community groups up and down the country have secured social finance from Clann Credo. But Clann Credo is much more than a source of finance – they understand the stops and starts of managing community projects. It is their understanding of community development and volunteerism that positions them as a trusted community finance partner for over 600 community borrowers.

Clann Credo is a registered charity with a national remit. They have staff ready to assist your community group - it's never too early to talk to Clann Credo about your community's project!

For more information check out the Clann Credo website www.clanncredo.ie or contact them – info@clanncredo.ie / 01 400 2100.

Follow Clann Credo on Social Media – [X/Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Please click [HERE](#) for Clann Credo's Annual Report 2022

CURRENT GRANTS AVAILABLE: (PLEASE PRESS LINK FOR DETAILS)

[Community Safety Small Grants Scheme- Expressions of Interest now being accepted](#)

[Build Heritage Investment Scheme 2024](#)

[2023 Parent Peer Support fund now open for applications](#)

[Horizon Europe Cluster 2: new open calls for funding published](#)

[New European Bauhaus Festival - call for applications](#)

[Heritage Council Funding](#)

[The Arts Council Co-funding Award 2024 for Creative Europe Cooperation Projects](#)

[European Youth Foundation Grants – International Activity Grant](#)

[Benefact Group – Movement for Good Awards](#)

[Rise Community Fund](#)

[Foras na Gaeilge – Colmcille Small Grants Scheme 2023](#)

[ESF Social Innovation Practices to Combat Homelessness](#)

EU News

Commission launches a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling and proposes a strengthened EU legal framework

The European Commission this week proposed new legislation laying down minimum rules to prevent and counter the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and stay in the EU. It also proposed a Regulation to reinforce Europol's role and inter-agency cooperation in the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. The Commission further launched a Call to Action for a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling. Migrant smuggling is a criminal activity that disrespects human life and the dignity of people in the pursuit of financial or other material benefits. Smuggling networks are estimated to make profits of between €4.7 – €6 billion worldwide annually.

Find more information [HERE](#)



Council and EU Parliament reach provisional agreement on EU law protecting journalists and human rights defenders

The Council of the EU and the European Parliament have reached a political deal on a directive which would protect journalists and human rights defenders from strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs). The use of these lawsuits to silence people who speak out on issues of public interest is a growing phenomenon. The directive will put in place procedural safeguards against such claims in civil matters with cross-border implications. Vice President Věra Jourová said: "The new law will deter those wanting to file such abusive lawsuits from doing so and will strengthen the victims of SLAPPs and help them to fight back".

Find more information [HERE](#)

European Commission approves ‘Irish Grass Fed Beef’ as new island-of-Ireland Geographical Indication

The European Commission this week added ‘Irish Grass Fed Beef’ to the register of Protected Geographical Indications, signifying the fourth EU Geographical Indication awarded to the entire island of Ireland - comprising Ireland and Northern Ireland. ‘Irish Grass Fed Beef’ only includes cattle that derive at least 90% of their feed intake from grass and spend a minimum of 220 days per year throughout their lifetime grazing pasture. The cattle must be born, raised on grass, finished, slaughtered, chilled, and quartered in the island of Ireland geographical area.

Find more information [HERE](#)

